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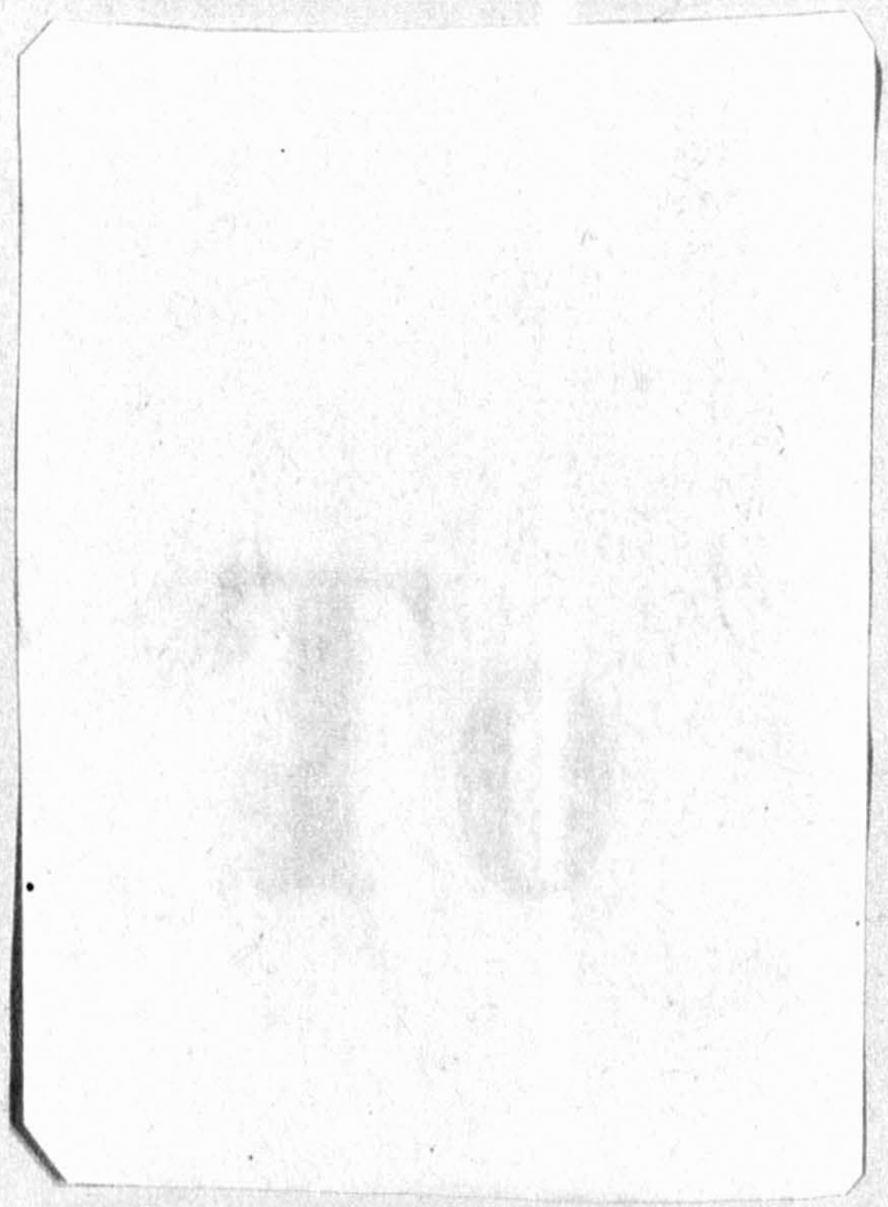
30 DECEMBER 1877



SUPPLEMENT TO

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

BOMBAY:—SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1877.

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THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Concluded from Yesterday's "Bombay Gazette".)

THE Hon. Advocate General said it appeared to him that the distinction which had been made in the Bill between the holders of alienated and unalienated lands was perfectly just. An alienated landholder held his land exempt from the payment of land revenue, and the result was that except as regarded the surveyed portion, all access of land that he might obtain by alluvion was also exempt; but, on the other hand, in the case of a holder who held his land subject to assessment, the land which might become attached by alluvion would also be subject to assessment. He held the accrued land on the same terms upon which he held his other land, and by section 123 it was decided that he should have the option of taking the accrued land subject to assessment or of refusing to take it. The result, as far as he could see, was that in the case of land attaching by alluvion to alienated holdings the accrued land was held as alienated land, and in the case of such land attached to unalienated holdings it was placed on the same footing as the original holding, viz.—subject to assessment, a prior option being given to the holder either to take it on such terms or to refuse it.

H. E. the President asked if the washing away of land at Mahim, alluded to by the Hon. Mr. Rogay, had occurred within the last 30 years.

The Hon. Mr. Rogay said the land was being washed away still every year.

The Hon. Mr. Bengallee said that during the last four or five years a great deal had been washed away.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers opposed the amendments on the same ground stated by the Hon. Advocate General, and he also wished to explain exactly how the sections as drafted would work. Alienated land was defined for the purposes of this Act to mean land the right of levying revenue on which had been transferred from Government to other powers, and in the case of such lands any increment up to one-fourth of the original holding would be handed over to the alienated holder; but in the case of unalienated lands, any increment could only be enjoyed by the person in possession of the original land, provided that assessment should be paid to Government. He thought the amendments that had been proposed would have the effect of giving over the new land to the holder of Government land on the same terms that the original land might be held, but that would scarcely be fair. It might be that the original land would be of a poor quality and assessed accordingly, and that the new land would be of a much richer and better character and of far greater value; and it was therefore laid down that the assessment should be revised and the new land assessed according to its natural capabilities.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik contended that the new land should go to the holder of the original land to which it became attached, whether alienated or unalienated, on the same terms upon which the original land was held.

The amendments were then put to the vote and lost by 7 to 4, the order of voting being the same as on the previous motion.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik next moved that section 126 A. should be omitted. He said he had already said all he wished to say except to call attention to the fact that even the Burmah Act from which the section was taken provided for 20 years' holding constituting an exemption from the operation of this law. He thought it was a very objectionable law, and trusted the Council would not incorporate it in the code.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers proposed to meet Mr. Mandlik's objections by altering the section to read as follows:—"The right of Government to mines and mineral products in all unalienated land is, and is hereby declared to be, expressly reserved, provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect any subsisting rights of any occupant of such land in respect to such mines or mineral products."

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik declined to accept the alteration or to withdraw his amendment. He said it declared a right which the Government had never previously claimed, and he did not think there was any evidence before the Council to warrant the insertion of such a clause.

The Hon. Col. Anderson said the section as now proposed by the hon. mover was little more than declaratory. There would be no encroachment whatever on existing rights where rights could be shown to exsit.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik said the new section was somewhat more liberal than the former sweeping clause, but the objections he had already urged still applied. He thought that any such innovation in the existing law was to be deprecated. He had never opposed anything which would assist the realisation of the revenue, and any administrative change that was necessary for the perfection of measures for such realisation he would be the first to support, but he thought a great thing which ought always to be very carefully guarded against in this country was the danger of too frequent changes and alterations of the existing law.

The amendment moved by Mr. Mandlik that section 206 A. be omitted was then put to the vote and was lost by 6 to 5, the order of voting being:—For:—The Hon'bles V. N. Mandlik, Major General Kennedy, M. A. Rogay, Becherdass Ambaidass, and S. S. Bengallee; Against:—H. E. Sir Chas. Staveley, the Hon'bles A. Rogers, J. Gibbs, the Advocate General, E. W. Ravenscroft, and Col. Anderson.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik next moved that clause 2 of Section 134 should be omitted. The clause ran:—"And where, by reason of the antiquity of a tenancy, no satisfactory evidence of its commencement is forthcoming, and there is not any such evidence of the period of its intended duration, if any, agreed upon between the landlord and tenant, or those under whom they respectively claim title, or any usage of the locality as to duration of such tenancy, it shall, as against the immediate landlord of the tenant, be presumed to be coextensive with the duration of the tenure of such landlord and of those who derive title under him." Mr. Mandlik said this was what might be called the perpetual tenancy clause, and it went farther than any legislation of the kind had yet done. Even where occupancy rights had been granted *de novo* by the Legislature, it had been distinctly held that such rights were non-transferable. Occupancy rights under (Bengal) Act X. of 1859 had been held to be non-transferable. Another point was that there was no definition of what was meant by "antiquity." It was well known in England what "time immemorial" meant, but there was no such limitation here, and it would be difficult to define what antiquity might mean. He had already stated more than once the reasons why he objected to this clause. There was a case decided not very long ago in which a piece of ground belonging to a temple at Unclesur had happened to be held by one family for more than two generations, and the tenants happened to quarrel with the committee of the temple, or the manager of the committee, and refused to pay certain dues which were demanded for and of right belonged to the temple. The *sanad* was distinct showing that the land had been granted to the temple; but taking advantage of the uniformity of the rate of rent for so long a period, the tenants argued that they had a perpetual tenancy. However, although a uniformity of payment was proved extending beyond a period of 60 years, it was held that inasmuch as the land belonged to the temple, the *onus* was on the tenants to prove that they had a perpetual tenancy. Decisions in similar cases had all along run that direction; but according to the present section there would be considerable difficulty, and probably the courts would have to decide the other way. He saw no reason why the present law should be altered.

In answer to a question from H. E. the President, Mr. Mandlik said that in the case he had quoted the tenants wanted to set up almost as owners of the land, claiming that the temple had a right only to the collection of the Government revenue.

The Hon. Mr. Bengallee said he had supported Mr. Mandlik in almost all his amendments, but he could not vote with him in this instance. He was afraid Mr. Mandlik was somewhat inconsistent in his arguments, in stating repeatedly that Government in this country had only a right to the produce of the land and not to the land itself, and in now bringing forward his present amendment. It appeared to him (Mr. Bengallee) that the object of the clause which Mr. Mandlik proposed should be omitted from the Bill was to prevent *Inamdars* and others to whom land had been given by native sovereigns or by the English Government from ousting their tenants—tenants who might have been holders of the land for centuries,—and sending them away whenever they might think fit; and he did not see why that class of landholders should have a greater right over their tenants than the Government reserved to themselves over theirs. He considered the clause to be a safeguard for the tenants, whom influential landlords might otherwise turn out as they pleased, and thought it would be a great pity if it were omitted.

The Hon. Col. Anderson said Mr. Bengallee appeared to be entirely in favour of the protection of the cultivating class against what might be called the landlord class—for the protection of the ryots against the *Inamdars*. As a general rule, *Inam* grants were not of an extremely ancient date, and they always contained a clause which might be interpreted "with the reservation of all existing rights." The families of the ryots holding land in these villages had in many cases been for generations there, and the Government in granting an *Inam* could not make over their rights as tenants to the *Inamdars*,—their tenure was perfectly independent, and, by the custom of the country, so long as they continued to pay their revenue dues, the right of collecting which alone the Government made over to the *Inamdars*, the *Inamdars* had no right to interfere. They gradually, however, came to do so, and matters reached a culminating point about 1865, when the *Inamdars* began to press their ryots for payment of higher assessments. The profits of the agricultural classes for two or three years, especially in the cotton growing districts had been enormous,—they received gold where formerly they would have been glad to receive silver, or even copper; and the *Inamdars* began running up their rents to an enormous figure. In one particular case, the Collector of Dharwar asked him (Col. Anderson) to be present between himself and a large *Inamdar* and his ryots. This *Inamdar* had been pressing the ryots beyond all bearing, and the object of the interview was that the Collector might reason with him and get him to do something fair and moderate. The *Inamdar* and the ryots appeared, and the latter said they were willing to pay so much, the figure being a great deal more than had been paid customarily, but still not absolutely unreasonable according to the enormously depreciated value of money at that time. The *Inamdar*, however, said he would not take it, but he would put them down for Rs. 10 per acre that year, and Rs. 100 per acre the next year; he did not want the money at all; he wanted the land, and was determined to get it. The ryots in this case had a tenure very probably far antecedent to the *Inamdar's* grant. The *Inamdars* did, in a large number of cases, succeed in taking the land away from the ryots. One case was tried in which an *Inamdar* sued a ryot for excessive assessment, and the ryot said he was willing to pay the proper sum according to his tenure, but the *Inamdar* refused to take it, and the court supported the *Inamdar*. The judge held that the law was imperfect and wished to bring it to a certainty. There could be no doubt whatever that in the existing state of the law the cultivating class—the mass of the people—were under great hardship in *Inam* villages. They were required to pay very much more than the Government ryots had to pay. He (Col. Anderson) knew that from experience in having to settle estates. The revenue which had to be given to the *Inamdars* in order to induce them to give their ryots a secure tenure was very considerably higher than were exacted under the Government revenue laws. What the ryots required was some legislative security against being under subjection to the landlord class, who were not always the most scrupulous people imaginable.

The Hon. Advocate General drew attention to the saving clause, which ran as follows:—"Nothing contained in this section shall affect the right of the landlord (if he have the same either by virtue of agreement, usage, or otherwise), to enhance the rent payable, or services renderable by the tenant, or to evict the tenant, for non-payment of the rent or non-rendition of the services, either respectively originally fixed or duly enhanced as aforesaid." He said he considered that that saving clause perfectly preserved the landlord's right, if he had the right, to increase his rent, and if the tenant would not pay he could turn him out. This clause would meet the case of the temple to which Mr. Mandlik had referred. The intention of the section was to preserve rights in cases where landed estates had been held by the present or former Government and grants had been made of them to *Inamdars* and others, because the Government could only make such a grant subject to the preservation of existing rights of the ryots so long as they continued to pay their rents.

The Hon. Mr. Rogay thought it was not right to place Government and private landlords in the same catogery, and to argue because Mr. Mandlik held that Government should not transgress rights that had existed from time immemorial, that therefore he ought also to hold that a landlord had no right to turn out his tenant because he seemed to have an ancient right. He considered that the clause objected to by Mr. Mandlik would affect the rights of landowners, who had a perfect right to turn out any tenant, whether an ancient or a new one, and whether he had any written lease or not if he did not pay his rent. Col. Anderson had said that the proprietors of alienated villages were people who exacted excessive payments from their tenants, and that the object of the section was to protect the tenants against such exactions. If that argument were admitted, he might say the Government were not consistent. The Government had in many cases levied assessments which they had no right to levy; and a Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act had been passed against the opposition of all the people of Bombay and all the Judges of the High Court. If antiquity was the only title to justify a tenant feeling that he was not liable to have his rent enhanced, the same argument should apply to the *Inamdars*, who had ancient rights, and from whom former Governments never took any assessment, but from whom Government now took one-eighth of their Inams. If hon. members spoke of consistency, he did not think either the Council or the Government had ever been consistent; they could not be consistent. His hon. and learned friend, Mr. Mandlik, had been perfectly consistent. A tenant should be turned out if he did not suit the wishes of his landlord, and did not pay his rent, because the landlord could invest his money with the object of getting a return from it, and if one tenant did not pay him he had a right to let his land to another who would. He thought the section as drafted would take away the rights of the people under the plea of protecting the poor ryots, and he had much pleasure in supporting the amendment.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers said that if the Council would consider the section attentively, they would see that there was no intention whatever to interfere with any rights, but merely to protect the status of ancient

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tenants. He was sorry to see the Hon. Mr. Mandlik placing himself in a position which he thought was decidedly in favour of the landlord class and antagonistic to the tenants.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik said he did not take up a position in favour of any particular class, either landlords or tenants; he merely pointed out that the law had stood for a long time so that the *onus* had always been on the tenant in disputed cases to prove that he had a perpetual tenancy. The courts had been consistent, and in cases where a resident showed that he was a resident of a village prior to the grant to the *Inamdar*, they had always placed the *onus* on the *Inamdar* to prove that he had the right to eject his tenant. The clause as framed was itself quiet uncertain, because he did not see how it could be construed by reason of the antiquity of a tenancy.

On the amendment being put to the vote, the Hon'bles V. N. Mandlik and M. A. Rogay were the only members who voted for it, those against being 9 in number, viz:—H. E. Sir Chas. Staveley, the Hon'bles A. Rogers, J. Gibbs Major General. Kennedy, the Advocate General, E. W. Ravenscroft, Col. Anderson, Becherdass Ambaidass, and S. S. Bengallee.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers then moved that the following be substituted for the present section 66:—"Except as provided in the last preceding section and in section 51 none but a Watandar shall be appointed as deputy whether by the Collector or by a representative Watandar if there be a Watandar of the same Watan and descended from the same ancestor as the representative Watandar whose duty it is to officiate, fit and willing to serve; and in the event of the representative Watandar declining to appoint any such Watandar as his deputy, the Collector shall himself appoint one. Provided that it shall be lawful for Government to exempt representative Watandars from the operation of this restriction in such cases as they shall for special reasons deem fit, and that when the Collector himself appoints a deputy under para. 2 of section 59 he may, if Government so direct, appoint other than a Watandar." Mr Rogers said that when this section was before the Council at a previous sitting he explained a difficulty that had been experienced in administering the Watandari Act which was passed three years ago, in consequence of the provision that the persons who were appointed as deputies should always be Watandars, the Act thus preventing the appointment of any outsider as a deputy. The section he now proposed to insert in the Act had been framed with a view to provide for this administrative difficulty. The hon. gentleman concluded by reading a long letter on the subject from a person in the Ahmednuggur Collectorate who had been injuriously affected by the operation of the provision as contained in the present law.

The Hon. Mr. Gibbs said he might mention that this amendment was found to be necessary very shortly after the Watandari Act came into operation. Maharajas Scindia and Holkar were patels of villages of this description, and it was very desirable that they and others should be allowed to appoint their agents as their representatives under the Act.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers next moved that the word "record" in line 31 of section 107 should be altered to "title deed," and that the words "to him," in the same line, should be struck out.

At the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Mandlik, the section was amended by the substitution of the word "sunnud" for "record" and the omission of the words "to him" in the 31st line, and by the insertion of the words "or other record" after the word "authority" in the 32nd line.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers said the next amendment he had to propose had reference to section 134. As it appeared that if the first paragraph of this section as it was it would throw upon the tenant the *onus* of proving that he was a tenant, he proposed to add a third paragraph, which would read as follows:—"And where there is no satisfactory evidence of the capacity in which a person in possession of land in respect of which he renders service or pays rent to the landlord, received, holds, or retains possession of the same, it shall be presumed that he is in possession as tenant."

The amendment was carried.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers next proposed—"That lines 12 to 23 of section 211 be struck out and the following new paras. inserted:—

"The said survey-fee shall be payable within six months from the date of a public notice to be given in this behalf by the Collector after the completion of the survey of the site of the town or city, or of such part thereof as the notice shall refer to."

"In any town or city in which Bombay Act IV. of 1868 was in force before the passing of this Act a similar public notice shall be issued by the Collector within six months after the passing of this Act, provided that in any such town or city no survey-fee shall be leviable when a fee has already been paid by a landholder for a sunnud obtained by him under section 10 of the said Act.

"Every holder of a building site as aforesaid shall be entitled, after payment of the said survey fee to receive from the Collector without extra charge, one or more sunnuds, in the form of Schedule H, specifying by plan and description the extent and conditions of his holding. Provided that if such holder do not apply for such sunnud or sunnuds at the time of payment of the survey-fee or thereafter within six months from the date of the public notice issued by the Collector under the last preceding section, the Collector may require him to pay an additional fee not exceeding one rupee. Mr. Rogers said he had already explained to the Council at a previous sitting that the necessity for introducing these amendments arose in consequence of the withdrawal of the City Survey Act Amendment Bill, No. 4 of 1876. That Bill was brought forward at a time when it was thought there was very little chance of the Revenue Code Bill being brought before the Council and passed into law so soon. In the present state of affairs, there was no necessity for passing a separate law, and the amendment he now proposed provided for all that it was necessary to provide for. The Hon. Mr. Mandlik said he had no objection to the first and third paragraphs, but he objected to the second paragraph because the Act of 1868 did not make the payment of these fees compulsory, and their conclusions regarding the intention of the Act the Courts of Law had legitimately drawn from the language of the Act itself. There had been nothing adduced to show that there need be any retrospective provision introduced now to make those dues payable. The issue of a fresh notice would not improve the matter, inasmuch as it would make leviable what was not leviable under the law passed nine years ago.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried by show of hands.

In answer to a question from H. E. the President, the Hon. Mr. Mandlik said he should wish to have the division recorded, and the votes were accordingly recorded as follows—For:—H. E. Sir Chas. Staveley, the Hon'bles A. Rogers, J. Gibbs, Major General Kennedy, the Advocate General, E. W. Ravenscroft, and Col. Anderson; Against:—The Hon'bles V. N. Mandlik, M. A. Rogay, Becherdass, Ambaidass, and S. S. Bengallee.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers next proposed that section 126A. should be amended so as to read as follows:—"The right of Government to mines and mineral products in all unalienated lands is, and is hereby declared to be, expressly reserved, provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect any subsisting rights of any occupant of such land in respect to such mines or mineral products."

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik said all he wished to say on this point was what he had said before. No doubt this would be an improvement on the section as it originally stood, but it was a matter for regret that any new section of this kind should have been introduced. He trusted that as the Bill had not even yet been quite matured, this point might still receive further consideration.

The amendment was then put to the vote and carried.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers said the Legal Remembrancer had called his attention to the fact that some difficulty might arise in consequence of the wording of section 196. The new Civil Procedure Code, which had been passed since the last meeting of the Select Committee, and which would come into operation on the 1st of October next, enacted that the partition of estates or separation of shares should be made by the collectors, so that the Supreme Legislature had made the collectors independent of the decrees of the courts. Therefore, he proposed in order to bring the supplementary rules of the Local Legislature into accordance with this new state of law, that in clause 2 of the section in place of the words "as the court or other authority under whose order the partition is made" should be inserted the words "as the collector thinks fit."

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik thought the new Civil Procedure Code would be a very complicated piece of machinery, particularly as regarded questions of partition, and he suggested that it might be well to postpone this point in order that it might receive very careful consideration.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers said the simple fact was that the power was placed in the hands of the collectors instead of under the direction of the civil courts.

The Hon. Mr. Gibbs said there were other points in the Bill which would probably need consideration on account of the bearing of the New Civil Procedure Code on the questions. The Council might adopt the present amendment provisionally, and leave it and other points open for future consideration.

The amendment was then put to the vote and carried as follows:—That the words "as the collector deems fit," in clause 2 of the section, be substituted for the words "as the court or other authority under whose order the partition is made," and that after the word "demand," in line 28 there be inserted the words "the expenses necessary and properly incurred in making such partition shall be recoverable as a revenue demand in such proportions as the collector thinks fit, from the sharers at whose request it is made, or from the persons interested in such partition."

The Hon. Mr. Rogay said that before the Council separated he wished to propose verbal alterations in section 103. His Excellency the President's predecessor had assured the Council when the Bill was first introduced, and in answer to an objection from the Hon. Mr. Mandlik and himself (Mr. Rogay) that this section would never be acted upon except where the representative Watandar's deputy was convicted for treason or some offence of the like nature; but he thought it very likely that in future only the wording of the Act would be looked to, and he proposed to make the offence explicit and to insert before the word "offence" the word "treasonable," and to strike out the words "in the discharge of his official duties." He also proposed that from lines 2 and 3 the words should be omitted, "or any deputy or substitute appointed by him."

The Hon. Mr. Gibbs pointed out that the section as drafted only referred to offences amenable to courts of sessions, and that only a limited number of grave offences would be tried by such courts.

The Hon. Mr. Mandlik suggested that it would be advisable to hold over the amendment to a future sitting. The section referred to had already been passed provisionally, and any amendment could be proposed when the Bill came up for the second reading.

The amendment was not, however, withdrawn.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers said this question was fully argued out when the Watandari Act was before the Council, and the section was framed in accordance with what was shown to be the distinct custom of the country.

On the amendment being put to the vote, it was lost by 7 to 3, the Hon'bles M. A. Rogay, S. S. Bengallee. The Hon. Mr. Mandlik declined to vote, although he was in favour of the amendment, because he thought it should have been moved at the second reading.

This concluded the consideration of the Revenue Code Bill.

A NEW EXCISE LAW FOR BOMBAY.

The Hon. Mr. Rogers moved for permission to introduce two bills to regulate what was called the *Abkari* revenue,—one to apply to the town and island of Bombay, and the other applying to the Bombay presidency generally. Mr. Rogers said he did not propose to enter into the details of these two bills on the present occasion. He need only say that there were so many conflicting interests between the manufacturers of liquor in the town and island of Bombay and outside it, and the interests of Government were so prejudiced by the various systems in force, that it had been found necessary to legislate on the subject. The sanction of the Government of India had been obtained to two bills, and he now moved for leave to introduce these bills, copies of which would be supplied to hon. members so that they might see what the provisions were which it proposed intended to enact.

The leave applied for was given, and the Council adjourned till Wednesday, June 26th, midday, at Government House, Gunneshkhind.

PROSPECTUS OF THE MHOW AND CENTRAL INDIA RACE MEETING, 1877.

Stewards—Major General Sir H. Daly, K. C. B., Lieut-Colonel Boyd, 17th Regiment, Lieut-Col. McLeod, R.A., Major Vincent, 3rd Hussars., Major General Forbes, C. B., Major Ducat, 23rd N. L. Infantry, Major Martin, Central India Horse, Captain Angus, A. D. C., and C. Cheyne, Esq.

FIRST DAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.

1ST RACE.—"The Dewas Purse." A Purse of Rs. 300 presented by H. H. the Rajah of Dewas. For all Maiden Galloways. Weight for age and inches raised 7 lbs. 1¼ miles. Winners once 3 lbs., twice 5 lbs., thrice 7 lbs. extra. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 30, 1st October Rs. 60, 1st November Rs. 80, 1st December Rs. 100.

2ND RACE.—"The Hussar Cup." A piece of Plate value Rs. 1,500. Presented by the officers of the 3rd K. O. Hussars. For Maiden Arabs. Open to officers on full pay of the Army serving in India. The Cup to pe won 3 times before becoming the property of the winner. Six years and aged to carry 10 stone; 5 years 9 st. 10 lbs.; 4 years 9 st. 1 lb.; 3 years 8 st. 1 lb. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 100, 1st October Rs. 150, 1st December Rs. 200, with a Sweepstakes of Rs. 80 for all horses declared to start and Rs. 500 from the Fund. G. R. 1½ miles.

3RD RACE.—"The Trial Stakes." For all Horses Weight for age andclass raised 7lbs. Maidens allowed10 lbs. Winners of the season once 5 lbs. twice lbs. extra. Entrance on 1st Sepember Rs. 40, 1st October Rs. 80, 1st November Rs. 120, 1st December Rs. 150; and Rs. 400 from the Fund. 1 mile.

4TH RACE.—"For all Maiden Ponies" 13-2 and under 13-2 to carry 9 st. 10 lbs. Weight for age and inches. Entrance Rs. 20, with 150 from the Fund. ½ mile.

5TH RACE.—"The Arab Hackstakes." For all Arabs. 10 st. 7 lbs. each. G. R. ½ mile. Entrance Rs. 20, with Rs. 150 from the Fund. The winner to be put up to auction at Rs. 600. Surplus over selling price to go to the Fund. Professionals allowed to ride, carrying 5 lbs. extra

2ND DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND.

1ST RACE.—"3rd K. O. Hussars Subalterns' Cup." On its terms.

2ND RACE.—"The Mhow Derby." For all Maiden Horses. Weight for age and class raised 7 lbs. Winners once 5 lbs., twice 7 lbs. extra. The winner of the Trial Stakes 5 lbs. in addition to any other penalty. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 40, 1st October Rs. 80, 1st November Rs. 120, 1st December Rs. 150, with Rs. 400 from the Fund. 1½ miles.

3RD RACE.—"The Jowrah Purse." A Purse of Rs. 500 presented by H. H. the Nawab of Jowrah. For Maiden Arabs. Weight for age raised 3 lbs.; winners once 3 lbs., twice 5 lbs., thrice 7 lbs. extra. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 30, 1st October Rs. 60, 1st December Rs. 100. Maidens on the day allowed 5 lbs. 1 mile.

4TH RACE.—"The Starkey Cup." A piece of Plate value 200 guineas, presented by Captain Starkey, 3rd Hussars. For Arabs. Open to officers on full pay of the Army serving in India, the Cup to be won twice before becoming the property of the winner. Six and aged to carry 10 st. 3 lbs., 5 years 10 st. 2 lbs ¼ years 9 st. 2 lbs. A winner of one season 3 lbs. extra, two seasons 5 lbs. extra, three seasons 7 lbs. extra. The winner of the Cup in any previous year 7 lbs. extra, in addition to any other penalties. Galloways allowed 7 lbs., Maidens allowed 7 lbs., Maidens on the day of the race allowed 12 lbs. G. R. Professionals allowed to ride, carrying 5 lbs. extra. 1½ miles. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 50, 1st October Rs. 100, 1st November Rs. 150, 1st December Rs. 200 with Rs. 500 by the Mhow Race Fund. The Cup will not be given unless three horses on different interests start.

5TH RACE.—"The Grand Stand Stakes." For all Arabs. Weight for age raised 7 lbs. Maidens allowed 7 lbs. ¾ mile. Entrance Rs. 40 with Rs. 250 added. The winner to be put up to auction at Rs. 1,200. Surplus over selling price to go to the Fund.

3RD DAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

1ST RACE—The Holkar Purse. A Purse of Rs. 500, presented by H. H. the Maharajah Holkar. Handicap for all Arabs. 1¾ miles. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 40, 1st October Rs. 80, 1st November Rs. 100, 1st December Rs. 150. The Handicap to be published before 10 a.m. on the 24th December. Acceptances to be made before 2 p. m. the same day. Half forfeit for those not accepting the Handicap.

2ND RACE—"The Rutlam Purse." A Purse of Rs. 300, presented by H. H. the Rajah of Rutlam. Handicap for all Galloways. 1 mile. Entrance on the 1st Septembe

Rs. 30, 1st October Rs. 60, 1st November Rs. 80, 1st December Rs. 100. Half forfeit for those who do not accept. Handicap to be published and acceptances declared same as Holkar Purse.

3RD RACE.—"The Dhar Purse." A Purse of Rs. 500, presented by H. H. the Rajah of Dhar. Handicap for all horses. 1¾ miles. Entrance on 1st September Rs. 40, 1st October Rs. 80, 1st November Rs. 100, 1st December Rs. 150. Half forfeit for those not accepting the handicap. Handicap to be published and acceptances declared same time as Holkar Purse.

4TH RACE.—"The Pony Handicap." For all Ponies 13·2 and under. Entrance Rs. 20 with Rs. 150 added. ¾ mile. To close at noon on Saturday, 22nd December. Acceptances declared the same time as Holkar Purse.

5TH RACE.—"The Charger Stakes." For all horses *bona fide* the property of officers serving in the Mhow Division, including Agar, that have regularly been ridden on parade for the three months previous to the day of the race. A certificate to this effect will be required signed by the Commanding Officer. Weight for age and class raised 3 st. 7 lbs. Winners 5 lbs extra. Entrance Rs. 20, with Rs. 200 added. ¾ mile. G. R. To close at noon on Saturday, 22nd December.

4TH DAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH.

1ST RACE.—"The Mhow Steeplechase." For all horses. Weight for age and class raised 2 stone. About 2½ miles over the Steeplechase Course. Entrance on 1st October Rs. 30, 1st November Rs. 50, 1st December Rs. 80; at noon the day before the race Rs. 100, with Rs. 500 from the Fund. Winners once 5 lbs., twice 7 lbs. extra. Maidens allowed 7 lbs.

2ND RACE.—"The Stewards Purse" of Rs. 250. Forced Handicap for English, Colonial, and C. B. horses that have won races, to which Rs. 300 or more have been added during the meeting. Entrance Rs. 50 for each race won. Losers of the above class can enter before 8 a. m. on the 27th December at Rs. 50. 1¼ mile. Acceptances at noon.

3RD RACE.—"The Indore Purse" of Rs. 250. Forced Handicap for Arabs that have won races, to which Rs. 250 or more have been added. Entrance Rs. 50 for each race won. Optional to losers at an entrance of Rs. 50. Entrance of losers to be made before 8 a. m. on the 27th December. 2 miles. Acceptances at noon.

4TH RACE.—"The Arab Losers' Handicap." For all Arabs that have started and not won. Entrance Rs. 30, with Rs. 150 added. 1¼ mile. Entrances to be made by 8 a. m., 27th December, and acceptances at noon.

5TH RACE.—"Arab and C. Bred Steeplechase." For Arabs and C. Breds. 11st each. About 2½ miles. Winners once 5 lbs., twice 7 lbs. extra. Galloways allowed 5 lbs. Maidens allowed 7 lbs. Entrance on 1st October Rs. 20, 1st November Rs. 40, 1st December Rs. 60; at noon the day before the race Rs. 80, with Rs. 250 from the Fund.

RULES.

1. The races will be run under the W. I. T. Club Rules. The decision of the stewards will not be final. And in case of a dispute an appeal can be made to the stewards of W. I. Turf Club, whose decision will be final.

2. All owners entering a horse to pay Rs. 20 to the Fund. To enable them to start one horse a further subscription of Rs. 30, two or more Rs. 60. In case of a confederacy one member to pay the full sum according to the above scale, and every other member Rs. 50.

3. An owner entering for the Pony, Hack, or Charger Stakes to pay Rs. 20 to the Fund.

4. A winner's fee of Rs. 30 will be charged on all races worth Rs. 400 and upwards, and Rs. 10 on all other races.

5. If a Race does not fill, the stewards will make such arrangements as appear to them most conducive to sport; when a race closes with less than 3 subscribers on *bona fide* separate interests, it is considered as not having filled, and is therefore null and void.

6 In every race 3 horses from different stables, or in *bona fide* different interests must start, or the added money will not be given. No added money will be given for a walk over.

7. Horses trained on the Mhow Race Course or starting in a race will be charged Rs. 8, except for ponies, hacks, and chargers, when Rs. 5 will be charged.

8. Should the Fund not be sufficient, the stewards have power to make a proportionate deduction from the public money for each race.

9. The winner of each lottery to pay 5 per cent. of the gross value of the lottery to the Fund. A charge of 5 per cent. will also be made in the Pari Mutual Account.

10. In G. R. races, all officers of the Naval, Military, Civil Service, or in Civil employment of the Government of India, or members of any European Club either at home or in India, are entitled to ride.

11. Any one making an objection, which must be in writing, must deposit Rs. 50 in the Secretary's hands, which will be forfeited if the stewards declare the objection frivolous.

12. Subscribers of Rs. 20 will be admitted to the Grand Stand and enclosure free.

13. The stewards have power to postpone the races (before or on the advertised day) to each succeeding race-day in the event of their considering it advisable to do so.

14. Entrances for races for which no time is fixed in the terms of the race must reach the Hon. Secretary by noon the day before the Race. The following alterations in the W. I. T. Club Rules in the matter of declarations to start is published for general information :—

"A declaration to start in which horses have once been duly entered will not be required. The only declaration necessary will be when owners wish to scratch their horses, and in such case the omission to make such declaration will entail on owners the compulsory payment of full entry and starting sweepstakes.

15. In races closing with eight or more entries, the 2nd horse to save his stake.

16. Horses will be aged and measured by the stewards at the site of the Old Stand at 5 p. m., December 18th.

FRED. LUKIN, Hon. Secretary.

N.B.—The Holkar State Railway will be opened from Khundwah to Mhow.

GUJARAT SKY RACES, 1877.

STEWARDS.

Lieut.-Col. DRUMMOND.	Major WARD.
Major JOPP.	Capt. WESTMACOTT.
Capt. DES BARRES.	D. LECKIE, Esq.

FIRST DAY, 21ST AUGUST.

1. "Galloway Plate"—Rs. 150 from the fund. For all Galloways. 14 hands to carry 11 stone, 2 lbs. allowed for every ½ inch under. 1 mile. Entrances 1st June Rs. 10, 1st July Rs. 15, 1st August Rs. 20.

2. "Arab Derby"—Rs. 250 from the fund. Open to all Arabs to carry 11 stone. R. C. Entrances 1st June Rs. 15, 1st July Rs. 25, 1st August Rs. 30.

3. "Pony Race"—Rs. 100 from the fund. For all ponies, 13-2 and under. 13-2 to carry 11-7. 2 lbs. allowed for every ½ inch under. Entrances 1st June Rs. 5, 1st July Rs. 10, 1st August Rs. 15. ½ mile.

4. "Glencoe Cup."

A piece of plate, value Rs. 500, presented by Captain J. Humfrey.

A Steeple Chase for Walers and English Horses over about 3 miles of Country and 18 jumps. Walers to carry 12 stone; English 13. G. R.

Four Horses from different Stables and on different interest and intended to be *bona-fide* ridden out, to start, or the Cup will be withheld.

Entrance free; to close and name the day before the Meeting.

SECOND DAY, 23RD AUGUST.

1. "Gujarat Cup"—Rs. 125 from the fund. Open to all Arabs and Country-breds. Weight for inches give or take 14·2 to carry 11 stone. 2 lbs. allowed for every ½ inch. ¾ mile. Entrance 1st August Rs. 10. Day before the race Rs. 15.

2. "Saburmuttee Plate"—Rs 200 from the fund. A Steeple Chase for Arabs and Country-breds over the Ahmedabad Course. Arabs 11 stone, Country-breds 12 stone. Entrances 1st June Rs. 10; day before the race Rs. 20.

3. "Pony Hurdle Race"—Rs. 125 from the fund. Catch weights over 10 stone 7 lbs. ¾ mile. Entrances 1st June Rs. 5, 1st July Rs. 10, 1st August Rs. 15.

THIRD DAY, 25TH AUGUST.

1. "Hack Race"—Rs. 100 from the fund. Weight for age and class raised 4 stone. ¾ mile. Entrance Rs. 5. Horses competing in this race are not eligible to run in other races, unless specified.

2. "Gujarat Hunt Cup"—Rs. 150 from the fund. For all *bona fide* hunters that have hunted not less than 10 times in the Bombay Presidency during the past season. A steeple chase distance about 3 miles. Entrance Rs. 15. Arabs and Country-breds 11 stone; Walers 12·7. In case any doubt should arise as to whether a horse has been hunted or not, owners must come provided with certificates.

3. "Chargers Stakes"—Rs. 100 from the fund. Open to all horses regularly ridden as Chargers since 1st June 1877. Arabs and Country-breds to carry 11 stone. Walers 12 stone 7lbs. ¾ mile. Entrance free up to 1st July, on and after that date Rs. 5.

4 or 5 additional races both on the flat and steeple chase courses will be published as soon as the terms are received from the "*donors.*"

RULES.

1. Local rules excepted W. I. T. C. rules to be in force.

2. Owners and riders of horses or ponies running to be members of the Services in Government employ or of any recognized club or European Gentlemen, residents or landed proprietors in Gujarat, Kattywar or Deesa.

3. Entries for races for which no time is fixed in the terms of the race, must reach the Honorary Secretary by 6 a. m. the day before the race.

4. Owners of horses running to subscribe at least Rs. 30 to the fund, and of ponies Rs. 15; the greater subscription to include the lesser.

5. According to amount of funds additions to or deductions from public money will be made at the discretion of the stewards.

6. Three horses, the property of different owners, to start or the public money will be withheld. If 4 horses start the second saves his stakes.

7. Horses and Ponies will be measured on the course on a day to be named hereafter by the stewards.

8. C. B.'s born and bred in Kattywar and Gujarat allowed 7 lbs. Handicaps and Pony races excepted.

9. The stewards have the power to substitute fresh races for any of the above not filling, or to change the order of running of any of the races.

10. The decision of the stewards to be final.

11. All races to be ridden in colours; colours to be declared at the time of entrance.

12. The length of the Ahmedabad course is about a mile and a half.

13. Objections as to weight or qualifications must be made in writing to the Race Secretary prior to the race for which the objection is made, being run off.

14. Any one lodging an objection must deposit Rs. 25 at the same time with the Race Secretary. This sum may be forfeited should the stewards decide that the objection is frivolous.

15. 5 per cent. to be deducted from all lotteries for the benefit of the fund.

16. Winners of public money to carry the following penalties—once 4 lbs.; twice or oftner, 7 lbs. Half penalties for ponies.

This rule does not apply to races when there are no entrances.

17. Every owner of horses, except those running in the Hacks or Chargers Course fee Rs. 5.

18. All nominations, correspondence, &c. to be addressed to

The Honorary Secretary Gujarat Races, Ahmedabad.

JOHN JOPP,
Honorary Secretary.

THE CAMPAIGN IN ARMENIA.

TIFLIS, MAY 23.

IN my last I informed you of a battle which was said to be going on at Batoum. I believe it to be extremely probable that it was not at Batoum itself, but at Tsikhes Tsiri, a place on the coast 18 miles north of Batoum. It is impossible to take the latter place from the Russian side without taking Tsikhes Tsiri first. It is at a narrow pass, with the sea on one side and mountains on the other, coming down so close to the sea that in one part only a few men can walk abreast. I believe my information to have been true that a great battle was being fought there on the 21st, but no official news of it has been published, and I have not yet learnt anything more.

I have been told on good authority that the reserves at Poti have been sent in the direction of Sugdidi. Lieutenant General Tergukasoff is advancing from Bayazid towards Erzeroum. From Sourb-Oganessa he sent back a division under the command of Major-General the Prince Amilokhvaroff to Bayazid, in consequence of information about the enemy's intention to recapture that place. But it appears that on the 19th of May the Turks withdrew again to Van.

The Grand Duke Michael Nicolaiewitch has at last commenced operations for moving on to Alexandropol. His horses were sent on with some Cossacks yesterday, and General Pawloff tells me that they will probably start about the 30th of May.

The village of Poti is now completely deserted. It is a miserable swampy place. In time of peace its importance arises from the fact that there is a railway to Tiflis, and it is the only place on this side of the Black Sea, in Russian territory, which has a harbour of any sort. Only small vessels, however, could land there, and this is the reason why Batoum, with its good harbour, is an important place for the Russians to get possession of. At present there is no possibility of trade at Poti, and at the first shot from a Turkish man-of-war the people fled. To tell the truth, they are not sorry to be forced to leave the swampy, fever-stricken district. The consequence is that, instead of having 4,000 inhabitants, as usual, there are now only 100, and out of these only about half-a-dozen are women. The Turkish men-of-war generally come within about 2½ miles of the town. They might come closer, but are afraid of torpedoes. Temporary forts and sandbag batteries have been established, and there are a good many guns, of which eight are of large calibre—*Times.*

RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

(*Times' Correspondent.*)

PARIS, JUNE 4.

THERE is at this moment a kind of lull throughout Europe, and it would be difficult to say whether this pause in the agitation heralds the end or the beginning of the storm. Count Schouvaloff is to start for London to-morrow in charge of a Note, the text of which nobody as yet knows, but the sense and tendency of which people have been discussing for some days back. What reception will the English Cabinet give this note? Almost the whole question turns on the reply. The English Cabinet is not the only one to which it is directly addressed: but it is the Cabinet which is best able to judge it, the Note brought by Count Schouvaloff being an answer to questions of which Count Schouvaloff was the bearer. It now seems certain that words referring to an eventual and temporary occupation of Constantinople are in the reply; but the question is whether these words are in answer to one of the questions of the English Government or not—that is to say, whether Count Schouvaloff has not been charged to ask what Russia intends to do in regard to Constantinople. If such a question has been put—as I have reason to believe is the case—there is no ground for astonishment that Russia has replied to it. Further, if Russia has believed herself obliged to reply to such a question, she must have been unable, at least officially, to do so otherwise than as alleged. How could she, being engaged in a war with Turkey, declare *a priori* and publicly—I say publicly because the English Parliament will wish to be informed—how could Russia declare *coram populo* that she would not go to Constantinople? To do so would deprive her of all chance of concluding peace, for a nation knowing that its capital ran no risk of occupation by the enemy would be little disposed to consent to the conqueror's terms. At the most, then, Russia could give England assurances and secret guarantees in case an eventual and temporary occupation of Constantinople should seem seriously dangerous to British interests and with a little reflection, it will be seen how great the embarrassment of the English Ministers will be the day that question is raised in the Houses of Parliament.

But this will certainly not to be the only delicate point of the Russian reply. Mr. Cross's speech pointed out very clearly and tersely where English interests would be involved; but, as I have already mentioned, the Russian reply is said to give especially negative assurances—that is to say, Russia, referring to Mr. Cross's words, says, "I shall not do this and that;" but she does not say, "I shall do this or that." She will say, "I shall not touch Egypt or the Suez Canal;" but she will not say what she will do. For instance, as respects Asia, the following passage of a letter from one of the most competent persons to give precise information on the subject affirms,—

"The Russians are tending to take possession of Armenia, and they will keep their conquest. But to have possession of Armenia is, strategically, to command Syria and Mesopotamia, then thrown open to them. It is also, morally, an immense ascendency acquired over Persia and the Turkoman tribes of Turk-

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estan, who thus become a Russian vanguard. To compensate for such an eventuality England would require equivalent positions, and one of these positions is Egypt, not only on account of the Suez Canal, but because those who have ruled Egypt have nearly always commanded Syria, and through Syria have brought themselves into connexion with the lower part of the Euphrates and the Persian Gulf."

The Russian reply is, of course, raising a great many questions still, and may lead to many disputes. It is, however, the expectation of the Note which has produced throughout Europe the present lull. In Austria people expect that the war will be localized, without knowing naturally under what conditions and with what consequences the war may terminate. Italy maintains the expectant and almost silent attitude she has hitherto preserved. France, according to the expression of one of her statesmen, is looking at all the points without fixing her regards on any one of them; and Germany is holding the language of peace to every body. As Prince Bismarck has the misfortune, or good fortune, not to be able to speak or be silent without his words being commented upon, it is said that, in presence of the attitude of England and Austria, which are preventing the war from extending its area, the German Chancellor proposes to become the arbiter of peace, after having baen deemed the mysterious promoter of war. Those who dream of combinations by any means are digging up on this occasion the famous project talked of some months ago, which gave, as the final settlement of the Eastern Question, Servia, Herzegovina, and Bosnia to Austria, whose Austro-Hungarian dualism would thus be transformed into a Slavo-Austro-Hungarian trilogy; Armenia, with Kars, Batoum, Erzeroum, and Trebizond, to Russia; Bulgaria to Roumania; Bohemia to Germany; the Suzerainty of Egypt and Syria, with the Protectorate of Kalafat, to England; the Trentine to Italy; and, lastly, Lorraine to France, on the condition of dismantling Metz; Constantinople to be a neutral free port, under an English Prince. To this enchanting picture, as gay and smiling as a scene by Watteau, there comes a sudden blur. It is the speech of the King of neutral Belgium, asking money for military preparations. The question is now, "Which are right—those who paint the future in rose colour, or those who, like the King of the Belgians, see it only in black?"

A telegram to the Russian Agency says:—

"The simultaneous return, after leaves of absence, of the Russian Ambassadors to London, Berline, and Vienna has given occasion to rumours among the foreign newspapers referring to the war and its immediate consequences. These rumours are not only false, but are without any possible foundation. The simultaneous return is sufficiently accounted for by the general habit of diplomatists of all countries to take their holydays about this time of the year. Count Schouvaloff, whom the state of his extensive property and the death of the friend in whose charge it had been for 40 years had recalled home, has left St. Petersburg. M. de Novikoff asked some months ago for leave of absence on account of the death of his father. It was at that time refused, on account of political necessities, but became possible on the opening of hostilities, which suspended diplomatic action, and M. de Novikoff was then authorized to go to Moscow for the settlement of his affairs. As to M. d'Oubril, he has for a long time received annual leave in the Summer to go and attend to the affairs of the numerous family of which he is the head. It is hard to conceive how these three Ambassadors, taking about the same time holydays of three weeks or a month—the one at Moscow, the other at St. Peterburg, and the third at Riga—should have formed the strange Congress the foreign papers have so much to say about, especially as he who ought to have presided is already on the way to Bucharest."

GENERAL SKOBELEFF.

THE CONQUEST OF KHOKAND.

THE Special Correspondent of the *Daily News* at Bucharest writes:—

Among the many officers on the Grand Duke's staff, there is one who would attract attention anywhere, and whose career has been a curious and brilliant one. A tall, handsome man, with a lithe, slender, active figure, a clear blue eyes, and a large, prominent, but straight, well-shaped nose, the kind of nose it is said Napoleon used to look for among his officers when he wished to find a general, and a face young enough for a second lieutenant although he is a general—the youngest in the Russian army.

It is the famous General Skobeleff, the conqueror of Ferghana, or Khokand. The last time I saw him we were both standing on the banks of the Oxus, in the Khanate of Khiva. He was starting on his way to Tashkent. I on my return to St. Petersburg, in a boat which was to float me down to the mouth of the Oxus into the Aral Sea, where I was to find a Russian steamer. We were the last two who had seen the city of Khiva, for we were the last to leave it. He was then Colonel Skobeleff, and had just returned from a remarkable and daring expedition, for which he afterwards received the Cross of St. George. It will be remembered that of the five columns which marched on Khiva only four arrived, and that one, that of Markosoff, was obliged to turn back in the middle of the desert for want of water, after having incurred the most imminent danger of destruction from heat and thirst. Kauffmann wished to ascertain whether it would have been possible for Markosoff to reach Khiva by that route, but the Turkomans whom we had just been fighting had all fled in that direction. To have explored the route with safety it would have been necessary to send a large column, which Kauffmann did not think the importance of the matter justified. The only other alternative was for a small party to make the attempt at the risk of falling into the hands of the exasperated Turkomans. This Colonel Skobeleff volunteered to do. He took three friendly Turkomans with him, disguised himself in the costume of a Turkoman, and started on his perilous enterprise. He did not return for ten days, and everybody had given him up for lost, when he finally appeared at Khiva the day before Kauffmann's evacuation of the capital. He had managed to elude the Turkomans and to reach the point where Markosoff had turned back; he explored the way, measured the depth of the wells and the amount of water they could supply, and returned safely, almost exhausted by his long ride. He wished, of course, to write his report immediately, but as the army was moving next day, he determined to stay behind for that purpose in one of the Khan's palaces outside the city which had been Kauffmann's headquarters, and he asked me to keep him company, which I very willingly undertook to do. We remained there a day and a night after the departure of the army, and thus it came about that we were the last two of the invading expedition to look upon the Khivan capital. Since then I had followed his career in the newspapers, and it has been a very extraordinary and brilliant one. First I heard of him as Colonel Skobeleff fighting with the Khokandians, then as General Skobeleff to whom Kauffmann had entrusted the command of the forces sent against Khokand, afterwards as General Skobeleff, Governor of Ferghana, the new nameof Khokand, the country which he himself conquered and annexed, and which contains a population of about two millions of inhabitants. Then I heard nothing more of him until I met him in the railway train on his way to Kischeneff to rejoin the Army of the Danube. I see that the papers are continually confounding him with his father, who is likewise in the Army of the Danube, in command of an independent division of Cossacks who were among the troops that made the famous march to Galatz on the day of the declaration of war, to protect the bridge of Barbosh. The father is by no means an old man; father and son resemble each other as nearly as two peas, and the two together, both young and both generals, form a very curious instance of early success achieved without protection or favour. A parallel case is offered by that of General Ignatieff, the diplomatist and his father, who is likewise a general in the Russian army.

The war resulting in the conquest of Khokand seems to have been altogether a very curious affair. The country of Khokand was much in the same condition at that time as Turkey is at present. The people had been so oppressed and exasperated by the extortions of Khudoyar Khan that they had risen in insurrection against him in favour of his son, whom they at first succeeded in putting on the throne, forming a parallel case with the Bulgarian Insurection and the overthrow of Abdul Aziz. Curiously enough, this insurrection, which was altogether unexpected, broke out on the very day that a Russian Embassy arrived at the capital of Khokand. Within twenty-four hours the Khan was obliged to retreat towords the Russian frontier, and the Embassy was of course obliged to retreat with him. Skobeleff accompanied this Embassy, and his account of the retreat is very amusing. Only about 200 men of the Khan's whole army remained faithful to him; all the rest went over to the insargents and took part with the enraged population, who immediately began a pursuit of the reatreating monarch. The Russians had about 50 Cossacks, who were obliged to take part in the defence, otherwise they would have all been killed. The Khan had started in the night with 80 cartlads of money and treasure, with which he had hoped to reach the Russian frontier. The hope was vain, but at the same time it probably served to save his life, and to prevent the retreating column from being completely cut to pieces, for every time that they were on the point of being overpowered by superior numbers, the Khan ordered a cartload of silver to be dropped, whereupon the whole insurgent army threw itself on the abandoned treasure, and fought for it among themselves, thus giving the retreating party a fresh start. This operation was repeated no fewer than sixty times before they reached the Russian frontier, when the Khan had only twenty carts left. The loss of life was comparatively small. The Khan submitted to his pecuniary losses with great equanimity, as he still had enough left, and he is now living in Orenburg on the debris of his fortune in a princely manner, still a very rich man. The insurgents succeeded in placing his son on the throne, and in spite of the fact that the Russian Embassy had been fired upon and had sustained some loss, Kauffmann informed the new Khan that he was willing to recognise his authority provided he would recognise and ratify the treaty which had been in existence for some years between Khokand and Russia. The people of Central Asia are just like the Turks, and every concession made with a view of avoiding difficulties is regarded by them as a sign of weakness. This very moderate proposition coming from Kauffmann after the Russian Embassy had been fired at was regarded as a proof that the Russians were afraid, and their reply to it was to cross the Russian frontier, burn two or three Russian post stations, and kill the post-masters. There was nothing for Kauffmann to do but to send a column to protect the frontier, and put a stop to those acts of lawlessness. This, of course, very soon resulted in a collision, and the Russians invaded the country. They marched to the town of Namangan, which they took by storm after a few hours' bombardment, but the detachment was a small one, while the enemy's forces were very numerous, very brave, with more or less discipline, and the Russians soon found that, although they had taken the town by storm, they would be unable to hold it. They withdbew from it, therefore, and the next day began to retire toward the frontier, or, to put it more plainly, to retreat. They were immediatelly followed by the Khokandians, who attacked them with great violence and harassed them continually, keeping up a running fire all day long and making their position a very disagreeable one. On the third day of the retreat the Russian infantry had only fifteen cartridges left, the cavalry only three, and they still had three days' march before they could hope for reinforcements and supplies. The situation was a very critical one, and General Trotsky, who was in command of the detachment, decided that something would have to be done to put a stop to this incessant battle. The Russian detachment numbered only about eight hundred men, with three or four hundred Cossacks; while the forces of the enemy were some 6,000 or 7,000. The Khokandians had besides considerable experience in war. Their forces were regularly organized into companies and battalions; they had uniforms, standards, very good arms, and all the elements of a military organization. General Trotsky decided upon a night attack, and confided his plan to Colonel Skobeleff, then his chief of staff. The latter entered into the idea with great enthusiasm, and proposed to lead the attacking column himself: but going upon the principle that a night attack should be rather with the view of striking terror into the heart of the enemy than with the hope of doing him any great deal of harm, he decided to take only 150 Cossacks for the attack. Skobeleff, having reconnoitred the ground, perceived that the Khokandians had encamped within a mile and a half of the Russians, in an open plain, which gave every facility for the manœuvring of cavalry. At midnight he took his 150 Cossacks, divided them into three parties, and cautiously surrounded the enemy's camp. The party led by Skobeleff himself managed to pass the enemy's outposts, who were sound asleep. Then he gave the signal for the attack by firing his pistol, and, followed by his 150 Cossacks, he rode headlong into the enemies camp of six or seven thousand men, shouting and yelling like fiends, and cutting down everything in their passage.

The effect was tremendous. For a quarter of an hour the plain resounded with shrieks and yells, shots, the trampling of horses, shouts, and groans, and all the uproar of battle. Then all was silence. Skobeleff assembled his Cossacks, and when morning came he found that the whole army of the enemy had disappeared, leaving on the field about 40 dead, 37 standards, 2,000 turbans, 2,000 or 3,000 muskets and sabres, all their camp material. and baggage. But what was his astonishment on calling the roll to discover that he had not lost a man either killed or wounded. For a small affair it was one of the most brilliant feats ever recorded, for it inflicted a most disastrous defeat on the enemy, saved the Russian detechment, and enabled it to reach the frontier and its base in safety. These kinds of exploits have obtained for Skobeleff the reputation, even among the Russians, of being a kind of madman, who would fling away his own life and those of his troops without the slightest regard to consequences. General Skobeleff is rather indignant at this view of his character, and I am convinced it does him a great injustice. There is method in his madness, or rather what at first appears madness; as for instance, attacking 7,000 men with 150 was, as he explains it, not only not madness, but a reasonable, well-conceived plan, with the requisite number of chances on the side of the attacking party, and one that must have had the approval of all military men. His explanation is as follows. Irregular troops, even of the very bravest and best, are peculiarly subject to panic when attacked unexpectedly or from an unlooked-for quarter. Now, anybody who has experienced it knows that a night attack is a most terrible and nerve-shaking thing for the army attacked, even when composed of regular troops. For irregular troops it is certain destruction and defeat if the attacking party can penetrate their lines before they have time to get fairly awake, as in the present case. As to the small number of troops taken by Skobleff for this attack, he say that the object of his attack was not so much the hope of cutting the enemy to pieces as to strike terror among them and create a panic, and for this purpose one hundred and fifty Cossacks in the night, when their number could not be seen, were quite sufficient, as they could make as much noise and produce as great an effect as ten times their number; while a small party was less liable to confusion and to the danger of killing each other, the great danger of a night attack for the attacking party; and finally, if they did not succeed, and should all be killed, an eventuality also to be taken into account, the loss would be small, and such as not to seriously weaken the detachmont. It will be seen, therefore, that it was not such a mad business after all; and the result proved Skobeleff had really calculaed the chancess as any prudent general would do, and simply found that they were on his side. Although this new Khan of Khonkand, after this campaign, agreed to sign a new treaty of peace, the Russians had no sooner withdrawn from the country than he again opened hostlies, and Kauffmann found himself under the necessity of obtaining permission to conquer and annex the country, and this task he entrusted to Colonel Shobeleff, who as commander of an independent army, was promoted to the rank of general. The task was accomplished with rapidity and skill, as may be readily understood when it is stated that when the Khan surrendered to General Skobeleff, after a three months' campaign, nearly his first words were, "Before we begin to talk let me sleep, for I have not had a night's rest not a sound sleep, for more than a month."

I have given this sketch of Skobeleff because, although he has not yet received a command in the Army of the Danube, he will probably be heard of more than once before the present campaign is over.

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